

Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
Prineville District, 3050 NE Third Street, Prineville, Oregon

Proposed Action Title: Little Wall Creek Allotment, # 4108, Grazing Lease

DNA Number: OR-054-06-113

Location of the Proposed Action: Little Wall Creek Allotment is located 11 ¼ miles northwest of Monument, Oregon.

Purpose of and Need for Action: The grazing permit for this allotment will expire in FY07. The purpose of and need for his action is to re-authorize grazing use for another 10-year period.

Description of the Proposed Action: Renew a grazing permit for the permittee in the above listed allotments for a term of ten years. Except for the term shown on the permit, all terms and conditions on the permit will remain the same, including allocated AUM's and season of use.

Plan Conformance:

The above project has been reviewed and found to be in conformance with one or more of the following BLM plans: These documents are available for review at the Prineville District BLM office.

John Day Resource Management Plan (RMP) & Environmental Impact Statement, Record of Decision August, 1985.

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the LUP decision referenced in the *NEPA Adequacy Criteria* section of this document.

Applicable NEPA document and related documents:

The following NEPA documents and related documents address the proposed action:

John Day Resource Management Plan (RMP) & Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and Record of Decision August, 1985.

NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. *Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Is the current proposed action located at a site specifically analyzed in an existing document?*

Livestock grazing in the Little Wall Creek Allotment is not specifically addressed in the RMP/EIS/ ROD referenced above. Similar allotments are addressed on pgs. 30 of the RMP/EIS/ROD referenced above. The grazing preference authorized in the 320

acre allotment was 53 AUM's. No portion of the allotment is proposed for livestock exclusion. The grazing season authorized is from April 1 to November 30. According to the actual use information in the file, the actual grazing season has been for two weeks between June 30 and July 19 since 2004.

2. *Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?*

Alternatives in the planning document (page 7 to page 10 of the Record of Decision) ranged from emphasize commodity production to no action. South Stonehill Allotment is classified as a "C" (Custodial) allotment. The grazing preference will be 53 AUM's for the South Stonehill Allotment and appears appropriate given the current issues.

3. *Is the existing analysis valid in the light of any new information or circumstances?*

The BLM is required to assess all public land grazing allotments for compliance with the Standards for Rangeland Health & Guidelines for Grazing Management (43 CFR 4180). The allotment assessment for this allotment is scheduled to be completed by 2008. The term lease will contain stipulations that will provide for modification of the grazing of the public lands, if needed, after the completion of the allotment assessment..

4. *Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA documents(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?*

The John Day RMP/EIS addressed impacts of continued grazing and provided objectives and recommendations to facilitate maintenance of existing ecological condition trends (pages 14-18 and 29-35 of ROD). The approach is still considered vital.

5. *Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the Draft John Day RMP/EIS? Does the existing NEPA document analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action?*

Impacts resulting from grazing are essentially unchanged from those analyzed in the Draft John Day RMP/EIS. The Draft John Day RMP/EIS(pages 62-65, 72-73) stated grazing management will beneficially impact soils and water resources, plant diversity, riparian vegetation, wildlife upland habitat, and fish habitat. Under the preferred alternative grazing will have no significant effect on vegetation types and improve ecological condition. Under the preferred alternative there will be a low impact to cultural resources by grazing.

6. Are the cumulative impacts that would result from the implementation of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

The RMP does not specifically address cumulative impacts of grazing but does address long term impacts of the action with the assumption that the grazing activity would continue (impact analysis is on page 63 of Draft RMP/EIS). AUM's throughout the John Day areas will change from 25,323 to 25,734 over time. Recommendations and objectives in the document reflect the impacts and expected improvements that will continue with the ongoing grazing. The proposed action is substantially unchanged from those analyzed impacts.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with the existing NEPA document(s)?

Many of the individuals/organizations on our current "interested publics" list are the same as those on the mailing list for the RMP/EIS referenced above. A copy of this DNA worksheet will be mailed to a representative of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and to other individuals and organizations that have expressed an interest in this or similar actions.

Interdisciplinary Analysis:

The following Prineville District BLM employees reviewed this analysis for accuracy in their area of expertise.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Resource Represented</u>	<u>Initials/Date</u>
Don Zalunardo	Wildlife, Special Status Animals	DRZ 4/14/07
Heidi Mottl	Recreation, Wilderness	KM 3/25/07
John Morris	Fisheries	JM 5/1/07 fish stream
John Zancanella	Cultural Resources	JZ 3/26/07
Ron Halvorson	Botany, Special Status Plants	RH 3/29/07
Kenneth Primrose	Range, Livestock Grazing	KP 5/3/07
Larry Thomas	Soils, Hazardous Materials	LT 5/4/2007
Dan Tippy	NEPA Coordinator	DT 5/9/07
Bill Pieratt	Noxious Weeds	BP 5-1-07

Three species of Federally Listed, Federal Candidate or Bureau Sensitive wildlife were found when conducting a search of the districts sightings database for allot. #4108. List is attached. DRZ

Mitigation Measures:

The BLM is in the process of implementing the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for grazing management. This lease is subject to modification as necessary to achieve compliance with these standards and guidelines (43 CFR 4180).

The following mitigation measures will be implemented as part of the proposed action: A Manual Supplement, entitled "Rangeland Monitoring in Oregon and Washington", was developed and adopted by the BLM as a guidance document. The Prineville District also developed a district-monitoring plan. Both of these documents receive periodic review and revision. These documents provide a framework and minimum standards for choosing the timing and study methods to collect information needed to issue decisions which affect grazing management as well as watershed, wildlife and threatened and endangered species.

Recommendations:

I recommend that the grazing lease for the Little Wall Creek Allotment be renewed.

Prepared By: *Nick Titman* Date 12-18-2007
Title: Rangeland Management Specialist

Plan Conformance/DNA Determination

The proposed action and any specified mitigation measures (s) were determined to meet the criteria for a Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA). No additional environmental analysis is required. All cultural, T & E plant, and T & E wildlife specialists have provided clearance for the proposed project.

Reviewed By: *Danny L. Sping* Date 1/22/08
Environmental Coordinator

Approval:

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

Approved By: *Danny L. Sping* Date 2/8/08
Christina M. Welch *Acting*
Central Oregon Resource Area Field Manager

Note: The signature on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and cannot be appealed.

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Date	ID	Species	T	R	S	1/4	1/8	Acc	Observer	M	F	U	A	Y	Un	T	Notes	Nearest Landmark
5/18/1993	3435	AMERICAN ROBIN	07S	27E	3	NE	n/a	TR160	Gary Wing	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	GREAT OLD SNAGS, SITE ABOVE MONUMENT.	
5/18/1993	3436	CHIPPING SPARROW	07S	27E	3	NE	n/a	TR160	Gary Wing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	SITE ABOVE MONUMENT, GREAT OLD SNAGS.	
9/26/1981	1183	CHUKAR	07S	27E	3	SW	SW	TR40	Jech	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	GREAT OLD SNAGS, SITE ABOVE MONUMENT.	
5/18/1993	3437	DARK-EYED JUNCO	07S	27E	3	NE	n/a	TR160	Gary Wing	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	GREAT OLD SNAGS, SITE ABOVE MONUMENT.	
9/26/1981	1185	KILLDEER	07S	27E	3	SW	SW	TR40	Jech	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
9/26/1981	1186	LEWIS' WOODPECKER	07S	27E	3	SW	SW	TR40	Jech	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	GREAT OLD SNAGS, SITE ABOVE MONUMENT.	
5/18/1993	3438	NORTHERN FLICKER	07S	27E	3	NE	n/a	TR160	Gary Wing	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	GREAT OLD SNAGS, SITE ABOVE MONUMENT.	
5/3/1996	62	NORTHERN GOSHAWK	07S	27E	3	NW	n/a	TR160	Scott Cooke	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	NEST IN CORNER ASPEN STAND	
6/29/1995	776	PYGMY NUTHATCH	07S	27E	3	n/a	n/a	TR640	Olson	0	0	0	0	0	1	1		
9/26/1981	1188	RACCOON	07S	27E	3	SW	SW	TR40	Jech	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
5/18/1993	3439	RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH	07S	27E	3	NE	n/a	TR160	Gary Wing	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	GREAT OLD SNAGS, SITE ABOVE MONUMENT.	
5/18/1993	3440	WESTERN BLUEBIRD	07S	27E	3	NE	n/a	TR160	Gary Wing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	GREAT OLD SNAGS W/NESTING W.BLUEBIRDS.	
6/29/1995	777	WESTERN BLUEBIRD	07S	27E	3	n/a	n/a	TR640	Olson	0	0	0	0	0	1	1		
3/27/1996	796	WESTERN BLUEBIRD	07S	27E	3	NW	n/a	TR160	Scott Cooke	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	WALL CREEK-JV RANCH	
5/18/1993	3441	WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKER	07S	27E	3	NE	n/a	TR160	Gary Wing	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	GREAT OLD SNAGS, SITE ABOVE MONUMENT.	
5/18/1993	3442	YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER	07S	27E	3	NE	n/a	TR160	Gary Wing	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	GREAT OLD SNAGS, SITE ABOVE MONUMENT.	

+ all Boreal Sensitive Species